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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-11 EUR-25 /151 W
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R 160753Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6304
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK
SUBJ: PAKISTAN CELEBRATES 27TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: PAKISTAN CELEBRATED 27TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY WITH SOME GAIETY FOR PUBLIC BUT GOVERNMENT LEADERS' SPEECHES REFLECTED CONCERN FOR PAK SECURITY IN FACE OF EXTERNAL DANGERS AND INTERNAL STRIFE. KEYNOTE OF PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS WAS THAT "NATIONAL UNITY HAS BECOME INESCAPABLE CONDITION OF OUR SURVIVAL". PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER STRESSED GOP DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS "DESPITE HOSTILITY AND PROVOCATION OF TWO OF THE", AND EXHORTED PUBLIC TO SHOW TOLERANCE TO HETERODOX AHMADIYA SECT. BHUTTO ALSO USED OCCASION TO RESTORE COURT'S JURISDICITON OVER ENFORCEMENT FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. PAKISTAN'S 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE, AND FIRST YEAR UNDER NEW PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUTION, WAS CELEBRATED ON AUGUST 14TH IN FESTIVE MOOD PUNCTUATED
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WITH SPEECHES BY PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, AND OTHER

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FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEADERS. RECURRENT THEMES IN
THIS CELEBRATION WERE RENEWED NATIONAL DEDICATION TO
DEMOCRATIC AND EGALITARIAN SYSTEM, THANKSGIVING FOR
RESTORATION OF NATION'S HONOR SINCE DEFEAT OF 1971,
AND CONCERN FOR DANGER TO COUNTRY'S SECURITY FROM
EXTERNAL THREATS AND INTERNAL CONSPIRACIES.

2. PRESIDENT FAZAL ELAHI CHAUDHRY, IN SHORT INDEPENDENCE
DAY SPEECH, WARNED NATION THAT FREEDOM "IS NOT SYNONYMOUS
WITH COMPLETE LICENSE, IT CONNOTES EVERY INDIVIDUAL'S
RESPECT FOR FREEDOM OF OTHERS". IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE
TO STRIDENT ANTI-AHMADIYA MOVEMENT HE SAID, -IT PAINS
ME TO NOTE... MONSTER OF HATRED AND STRIFE ... IS
POSING SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR CIVIC HARMONY". PRESIDENT
SAID THAT ALL CITIZENS WERE ENTITLED TO NOT ONLY FREEDOM
OF THOUGHT AND BELIEF BUT PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY
AND WARNED THAT TOLERANCE WAS "KEY TO OUR NATIONAL
UNITY AND SOLIDARITY".

3. MOVING TO FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY, PRESIDENT
PRAISED LEADERSHIP OF ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO WHO SUCCEEDED
IN RETRIEVING LOST TERRITORY AND PRISONERS OF WAR AND
PREVENTING WAR TRIALS, "VINDICATED NATION'S HONOR AND
RESTORED ITS SELF-RESPECT". GOP AVOWED POLICY,
HE CLAIMED, WAS TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WITH CLOSE NEIGHBORS. DESPITE
"HOSTILITY AND PROVOCATIONS FROM TWO OF THEM," HE HOPED
THAT ONE DAY "SANITY WILL PREVAIL AND THEY WILL RECIPRO-
CATE OUR OFFER TO LIVE WITH THEM AS GOOD NEIGHBORS".
HE CLOSED WITH NOTE OF GOVERNMENT'S AMBITIOUS DEVELOP-
MENT PROGRAM AND DUTY OF ALL CITIZENS TO CNTRIBUTE.

4. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, IN SPEECH ON EVE OF INDEPENDENCE
DAY, SPOKE OF CONTINUING STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE GOALS OF
"DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, ENDING EXPLOITATION,
INEQUALITIES ... AND CONSOLIDATING NATIONAL UNITY".
REFERRING TO EVENTS IN SUBCONTINENT SINCE DEFEAT IN
1971, PRIMIN SAID, "WE HAVE PASSED FROM DARKNESS
THROUGH FIRE INTO LIGHT. NOT ONLY FRATERNAL MUSLIM
COUNTRIES BUT ALL PEACELOVING POWERS, GREAT
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AND SMALL, ARE COMMITTED TO OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE". BUT, ECHOING PRESIDENT'S
WARNING, HE SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO AVOID INTERNAL
STRIFE, "WHETHER PROVINCIAL, SECTARIAN OR LINGUISTIC".
"TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, NATIONAL UNITY HAS BECOME
INESCAPABLE CONDITION OF OUR SURVIVAL."

5. WHILE LAYING FOUNDATION STONE FOR NEW PARLIAMENT

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BUILDING IN ISLAMABAD ON AUGUST 14, BHUTTO ANNOUNCED
THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD RESCIND 1973 ORDER WHICH
SUSPENDED FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS. HE EXPLAINED THAT EXTERNAL
DANGERS, AGGRAVATED BY INTERNAL CONSPIRACIES REQUIRED
GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER PROCLAMATION
OF EMERGENCY. NEVERTHELESS, NEW MOVE WOULD MAKE
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ENFORCEABLE BY COURTS.

6. NEWS MEDIA GAVE EXPANDED COVERAGE TO FESTIVITIES
AND OFFICIAL CEREMONIES. PRESIDENT FORD'S
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE GIVEN NEWSPAPER, RADIO AND TV
COVERAGE, ONLY SUCH MESSAGE PUBLICIZED. NEWSPAPERS'
SUPPLEMENT SECTIONS CONCENTRATED ON HISTORY OF STRUGGLE
FOR SEPARATE HOMELAND FOR MUSLIMS OF SUBCONTINENT,
DEFENDING "TWO-NATION" THEORY THAT MUSLIMS COULD NOT
LIVE WITH HINDUS. "POLITICUS" (PROBABLY HIGH
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL) WRITING IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
PAKISTAN TIMES ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO OTHER HALF OF
THAT NATION WHICH ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE 27 YEARS AGO.
CREATION OF BANGLADESH WAS NOT A REPUDIATION OF LOGIC
OF PARTITION, HE WROTE, FOR IT HAD MAINTAINED ITS
(MUSLIM) INDEPENDENCE IN FACE OF (HINDU) INDIA'S
"HEGEMONIC ENCROACHMENTS". FURTHERMORE, BANGLADESH'S
ECONOMIC WOES SHOULD BE LESSON FOR THOSE IN PAKISTAN
THINKING OF SEPARATION INTO ECONOMICALLY UNVIABLE UNITS.

7. COMMENT: CELEBRATION COMES AT TIME WHEN NATION
FEELING CONCERNED ABOUT ITS FUTURE SECURITY, WORRIED
ABOUT INDIAN, AFGHAN AND SOVIET INTENTIONS, AND ABOUT
DEVISIVENESS OF SECTARIAN AND PROVINCIAL QUARRELS.
GOVERNMENT, THEREFORE, USED INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECHES
TO EMPHASIZE MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN GOP WORLD IMAGE AND
EFFORTS TO END CONFRONTATION WITH NEIGHBORS.
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DOMESTICALLY, GOP EMPHASIZED CONSENSUS-BUILDING
ASPECTS OF LEGISLATURE, TRADITION OF RELIGIOUS
TOLERANCE IN ISLAM, AND NEED FOR UNITY FOR PAKISTAN'S SHEER
SURVIVAL.
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